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China also is eagerly seeking to sell its so-called X family of SSNs, possibly to Syria, Libya, Iran and Pakistan. Since the PRC depends on the hard currency generated by weapon sales to finance the modernization of its armed forces, it feels compelled to export. In the past, the PRC has attempted to stifle criticism by selling or shipping through third parties (i.e., North Korea), has publicly underestimated the range/power of its weapons to defuse criticism, or has simply ignored international opinion to pursue its own interests.